

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-28 Canceled

29. (New) An image communication system comprising:

a plurality of image communications apparatuses, each of which possessing a telephone number belonging to a first category of telephone numbers, a telephone number belonging to a second category of telephone numbers and a corresponding network address;

a first address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one the telephone numbers belonging to the first category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses;

a second address supplying device storing telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers, the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses; and

a judging section included in each of the plurality image communications apparatuses, said judging section included in one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses determining whether a telephone number input to the one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses belongs to the first category of telephone numbers or to the second category of telephone numbers, and directing the input telephone number to the first address supplying device or to the second address supplying device based on the determination, said first or said second address supplying device providing the corresponding network address of the input telephone number to the one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses.

30. (New) The image communication system of claim 29, wherein each of the plurality of image communications apparatuses, the first address supplying device and the second address supplying device are operably connected together by a computer network.

31. (New) The image communications system of claim 29, wherein each of the plurality of image communications apparatuses are connected to an outside telephone network and possess an outside telephone number for communication therethrough.

32. (New) The image communications system of claim 29, wherein each of the plurality of image communications apparatuses are connected to an inside telephone network and possess an inside telephone number for communication therethrough.

33. (New) The image communications system of claim 29, wherein the function of at least one of the first address supplying device and the second address supplying device is incorporated in at least one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses.

34. (New) The image communications system of claim 29, wherein the first category of telephone numbers corresponds to a outside telephone numbers and the second category of telephone numbers corresponds to inside telephone numbers.

35 (New) A method of transmitting images between a plurality of image communications apparatuses, each of the plurality of image communications apparatuses possessing a telephone number belonging to a first category of telephone numbers, a telephone number belonging to a second category of telephone numbers and a corresponding network address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a first one of the plurality communication apparatuses a telephone number of a second one of the plurality of image communication apparatuses;

judging whether said received telephone number corresponds to the first category of telephone numbers or to the second category of telephone numbers;

attempting to acquire the network address corresponding to the telephone number of the second one of the image communication apparatuses if said telephone number is determined to belong to the first category of telephone numbers by referring to a first table storing the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses;

attempting to acquire the network address corresponding to the telephone number of the second one of the image communication apparatuses if said telephone number is determined to belong to the second category of telephone numbers by referring to a second table storing the corresponding network address of each one of the plurality of image communications apparatuses and a relationship between each one of the telephone numbers belonging to the second category of telephone numbers and each one of the corresponding network addresses; and

transmitting said image to said second image communication apparatus via the computer network the based on the acquired network address if the network address is acquired.

36. (New) The image communication method according to Claim 34, further comprising the step of:

transmitting said image from said first image communication apparatus to said second image communication apparatus through one of a first telephone network and a second telephone network if said network address is not acquired.